



A Message from Dr. Alexandra Estrella, Superintendent of Norwalk Public Schools

Response to Norwalk Board of Estimate and Taxation's Final Approval of the FY2026-27 City of Norwalk Operating Budget

The Norwalk Board of Estimate and Taxation (BET) has made its final approval of the FY2026–27 City of Norwalk Operating Budget. While this now allows the district to reconcile its own operating budget without direct impact to personnel in school-based budgets, it still presents some real and difficult decisions that lie ahead.

The BET voted to approve the FY2026–27 Operating Budget at a total of \$257.38 million in tax-funded monies and an additional \$1.95 million in state funding to the Norwalk Board of Education. The two amounts combined will equal a total combined appropriation of \$259.33 million, representing a 4.91% increase over last year.

We want to express our sincere gratitude to the parents, families, staff, and community members who strongly advocated for the Board of Education budget throughout this process. Your voices made a meaningful difference in demonstrating to members of the BET and the Common Council how deeply our community values public education. The strength of our schools is directly tied to the strength and future of our city. Investing in education is an investment in Norwalk itself.

On May 14, the Norwalk Board of Education will consider the reconciliation of the FY2026–27 BOE Operating Budget. While the final appropriations help protect personnel in the school-based budgets, the district will still need to make some non-personnel related reductions in school-based budgets and additional reductions in non-school-based areas that include personnel. These reductions will impact services that support our schools.